RISING WATERS THREATEN N.W.T. HAMLET, PG7

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VANCOUVER • MONDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2009 metronews.ca

Entertainment

Carrie offers holiday tonic
pg 17

Celebrity Buzz

Beckham line pinched
pg 18

Long-distance fees probably astronomical

SHOP TALK A Simon Fraser University professor received several messages from space on her answering machine.

They were from Canadian astronaut Robert Thirsk, who called Barbara Frisken from the International Space Station to discuss their study on the behaviour of particle suspensions known as colloids in zero gravity. Frisken is the project's lead investigator.

They're looking at ways to increase the shelf life of certain products.

"He apparently didn't have my work number so he would call me at home," Frisken said.

Thirsk returned to Earth Dec. 1 after six months.

STIG NIELSEN/
FOR METRO VANCOUVER

News on the Move

What's this barcode for?
Learn how to scan the barcode with the instructions at the top of pg 3

Going Green pg 13

Canada's target in crosshairs

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Santa's Arrived

KRISTEN THOMPSON/METRO VANCOUVER

Santa Claus waves to throngs of screaming children during the Sixth Annual Rogers Santa Claus parade on East Georgia Street yesterday. More than 300,000 people lined downtown streets on a sunny, yet cold afternoon to get a glimpse of 60 marching bands, choirs, festive floats and Santa himself. More photos, page 3.

Olympic Line sets stage to gauge streetcar desire

Proponents hope demonstration system will lure Vancouverites

JEFF HODSON
jeff.hodson@metronews.ca

Vancouver is getting a glimpse of a modern streetcar system that could someday be rolling through city streets.

The first of two streetcars that will operate during the Games as an 'Olympic Line' will be installed this morning near the Cambie Bridge.

They begin service Jan. 21 and will run 60 days through the Olympic period between the Athlete's Village and Granville Island.

For a number of years, Vancouver has been examining a streetcar system that would connect existing rapid transit with major destinations like Granville Island, Chinatown and Gastown.

The Olympic Line is a way for the city to showcase modern streetcars and then determine the need, scale and timing of a permanent system.

Coun. Suzanne Anton, a proponent of such a system, said hopes are it would eventually stretch from Stanley Park to Marpole, down the Arbutus corridor.

She thinks the demonstration line will get people excited about the return of streetcars to Vancouver.

"Bringing in these cars … will so whet people's appetite … that it will be almost an unstoppable desire on the part of the city to get the streetcar built," Anton said.

Steve Hall, the Western Canada general manager for Bombardier Transportation, which built the Flexity streetcars, said the demonstration project is a way for people to experience a modern streetcar. "Instead of just talking about it," Hall said, "we wanted to have an opportunity for people to really feel it, touch it, have a real experience."

The two streetcars, which were loaned from Brussels, Belgium, feature an Art Nouveau design. They have leather seats with wood and stainless steel interiors. They are also wheelchair accessible.

Long haul

- The streetcar was shipped from Belgium, via Germany, more than 16,000 km through the Panama Canal. It arrived in Tacoma last week and was trucked north yesterday.
- The truck with streetcar is 52 metres long, Bombardier's Steve Hall said, making it the longest load that has ever come up the Pacific Highway into Canada.

Frigid air here to stay awhile

WEATHER Vancouver will be shivering in the sunshine this week as an arctic front makes everything crisp, cold and clear.

Temperatures should drop to -5 C tonight and to -2 C tomorrow and Wednesday night, said John MacIntyre, a forecaster with Environment Canada. Highs will range between -2 C and zero.

Despite the cold, December, which averages a paltry 56 hours of sunlight, has been surprisingly bright. Metro Vancouver has had 30 hours of sunlight in the first five days and should surpass 60 hours by next weekend.

The frigid air even forced Metro Vancouver's first extreme weather alert this weekend, which prompted the opening of 400 additional shelter spaces under the Greater Vancouver Shelter Strategy.

The alert, however, also gives police the authority, under the recently passed Assistance to Shelter Act, to force homeless people into shelters. Vancouver police have not begun enforcing the law.

James Pratt, extreme weather response co-ordinator for Metro Vancouver, said the Greater Vancouver Shelter Strategy feels that forcing mentally sound people into shelters is a violation of their human rights.

He said any person brought by police to shelters would have the right to immediately walk out again.

JEFF HODSON/METRO VANCOUVER

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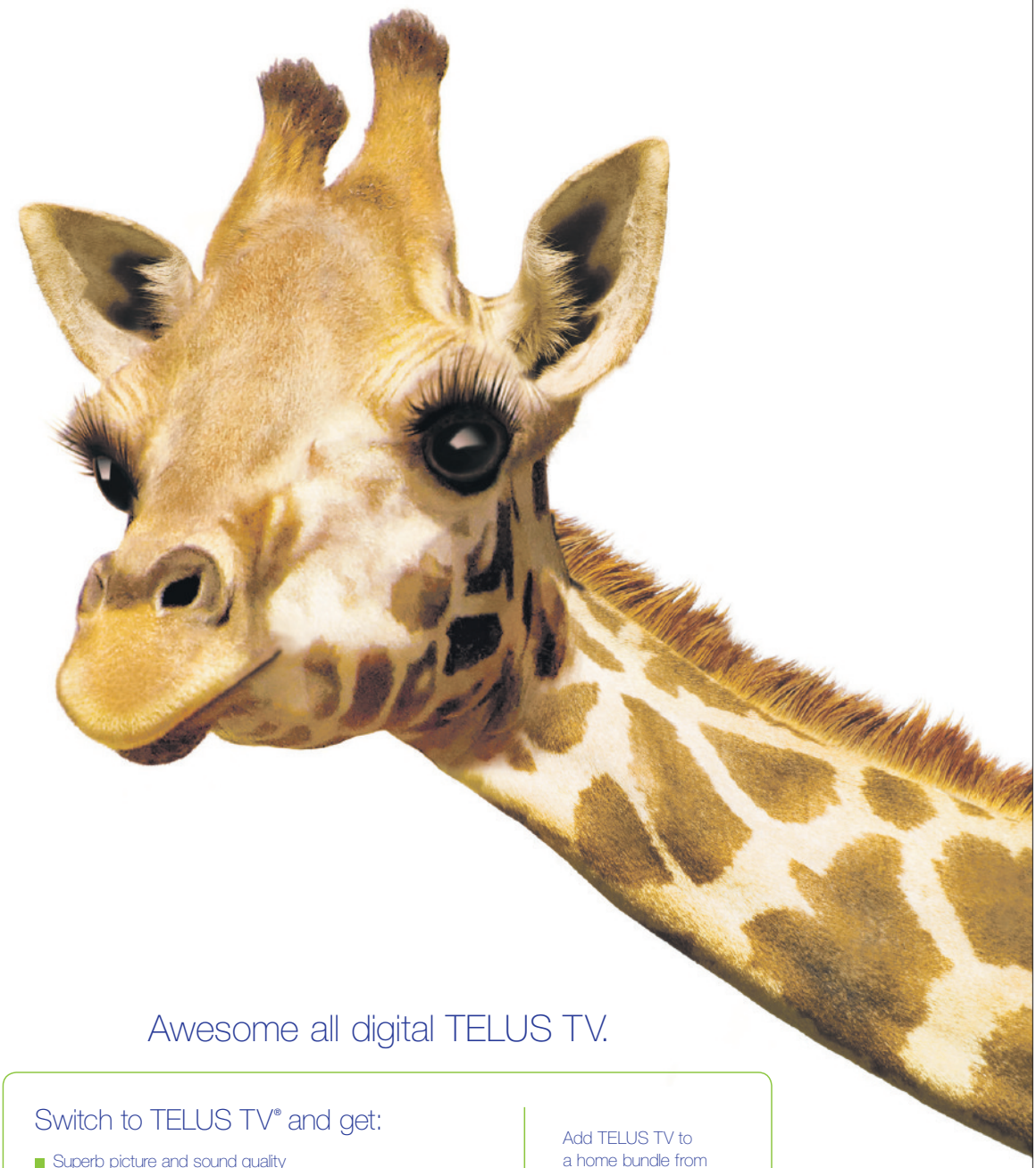

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Local

A Costello Christmas

Diana Krall and Elvis Costello, left, are expected at a Rockefeller-style Christmas tree lighting event in front of the Vancouver Art Gallery tomorrow 5:30 p.m. The lights of the 50-foot tree will be turned on at 6:45 p.m.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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News in brief

GAMES A UBC study on the impact of the 2010 Winter Games found the decision to host the Olympics has helped boost Canada's medal count and led to a rise in the number of businesses in Vancouver and Whistler.

DEATH Hundreds of mourners remembered Saturday the lives of a Vancouver doctor and her baby after the pair died in a plane crash off Saturna Island. Four others also died in the crash. METRO NEWS SERVICES

metronews.ca
What's online today.

Immigration Guidy Mamann on Canadian border officials' extraordinary powers at **metronews.ca/immigration**

Lotteries

Friday, Dec. 4
Lotto Max: 1, 6, 13, 19, 32, 25 & 40 Bonus 7
Extra: 37. 60, 65, 83
Saturday, Dec. 5
Lotto 6/49: 8, 10, 14, 22, 28 & 29 Bonus 2
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These results are not official.

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Santa-mania reigns at parade

KRISTEN THOMPSON
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Something akin to Beatlemania swept over Vancouver's youngest parade-goers yesterday when Santa Claus rolled by on his sleigh at the end of the city's annual Christmas procession.

Thousands of kids, who made up part of the 300,000 spectators, stepped off the sidewalks and waved mitten-clad hands as the jolly old elf — the obvious star of the parade — made his anticipated appearance.

John Fowler, 6, said Santa was his favourite part of the parade because he brings him presents.

Jacob Romano-Carlson, 8, was of the same opinion. "I liked Santa the best because his float had a snow machine," he said.

"And he was last, and you should always save the best for last."

Aiden Krushel, 5, liked the floats with horses the best.

"They are my favourite animal," he said.

Roughly 60 marching bands, choirs, festive floats and community groups marched down East Georgia and Howe streets for the sixth annual Rogers Santa Claus Parade.

KRISTEN THOMPSON/METRO VANCOUVER

Donations

- Around 9,500 pounds of food and over $18,000 was collected for the Greater Vancouver Food Bank Society.

Clockwise from top left: Dancers use hula-hoops as part of their Christmas routine, a juggler parades down Georgia Street, and a mother and child react to seeing Santa yesterday at the city's annual holiday parade.

Man falls to his death while snowshoeing on closed trail

SEAN KOLENKO
for Metro Vancouver

A man in his 20s was snowshoeing on a closed trail when he fell 400 metres to his death Saturday afternoon.

The man, part of a group of three, was hiking in Lynn Headwaters Regional Park, just behind Grouse Mountain. The group, equipped with only snowshoes, were not prepared for the treacherous terrain of the trail, according to Tim Jones, head of North Shore Rescue.

"He had none of the required things he needed," said Jones. "To hike in this area you need ice axes, ropes and full crampons."

"He had none of the required things he needed."
Tim Jones,
North Shore Rescue

When asked how the group made its way onto a closed trail, Jones said there were adequate warnings in place.

"The signage we have up is appropriate," he said. "There's not much more we can do. It's not an unknown thing."

For those who still plan to hike the trails this winter, North Shore Rescue has put out a severe warning.

"We have a severe concern for those getting on the trails. On this terrain you must be careful. Have full crampons and ice axes all the time"

A North Shore RCMP spokesperson said the coroner's office will release the deceased's name this week.

82% oppose HST: Poll

The majority of British Columbians, 82 per cent, told Ipsos Reid pollsters they are against the Harmonized Sales Tax, which is being introduced July 1. Nine in 10 people said they believe the HST is a tax grab that will be good for government, but bad for consumers. METRO VANCOUVER

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE COMEDY NETWORK

Michelle Lomack tests the Maple Member Minder before it was sent to comedian Stephen Colbert.

Thwarting the 'nut-kicker'

The Comedy Network is sending late-night comedian Stephen Colbert what they say is a beaver fur-lined jockstrap to keep his package safe from the Langley "nut-kicker" during the 2010 Winter Olympics.

The mock political pundit on Thursday announced on The Colbert Report that he will be in Vancouver for the Games in support of the U.S. speedskating team.

However, on Nov. 18, in his Threat Down segment, Colbert ranked as the No. 1 threat a Langley woman who is believed to have randomly kicked four men in the groin. Langley RCMP say the woman was never caught.

Colbert said he believes he's the nut-kicker's ultimate target.

"To ensure the safety of his boys, we created and sent Colbert the Maple Member Minder, a beaver fur-lined jockstrap," a spokesperson for the Comedy Network said in an email.

Fans are encouraged to send Colbert tweets @StephenAtHome to ask him to put it on.

METRO VANCOUVER

News in brief

SERVICES At least six B.C. municipalities are struggling to afford community services because pulp and paper companies are refusing to pay millions of dollars in taxes.

PENALTIES An Edmonton lawyer who left two horses behind in deep snow and extreme cold near McBride, B.C., last year has been fined $1,000 and sentenced to 12 months' probation.

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Exhibit of local art primed for gift-giving

An exhibit meant to showcase Vancouver artists is giving away $16,000 worth of fine art. Re-Gifted, which is being hosted by gallery Petley Jones and features many paintings priced $200-$400, is timed to coincide with holiday gift-giving. Ten per cent of profits will be donated to B.C. Children's Hospital. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Man stabbed after stopping attack

A 19-year-old Surrey man was stabbed several times after he and his brother tried to stop a man from beating a 25-year-old woman in downtown Vancouver.

The Good Samaritan and his 20-year-old brother saw a woman being attacked in the 1,300 block of Richards Street on Saturday night.

When they attempted to intervene, the attacker began to punch them repeatedly, Vancouver police Const. Jana McGuinness said in an email.

"The suspect (allegedly) broke away and reached into his parked car to retrieve something; then, without warning, he stabbed the 19-year-old multiple times," McGuinness said.

The attack, which happened shortly after 11:30 p.m., resulted in various 911 calls from passersby. Police arrived quickly and arrested a suspect. A knife was recovered nearby.

The stabbing victim was taken to hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

METRO VANCOUVER

Suspect charged

- The suspect, a 31-year-old Langley man, is known to police. He is currently facing charges of assault with a weapon and of breaching his probation.

Inquest into deadly van crash begins

KRISTEN THOMPSON
kristen.thompson@metronews.ca

A coroner's inquest begins today into the deaths of three female farm workers who died when the overloaded van they were travelling in crashed on an Abbotsford highway.

The inquest is expected to end on Dec. 18, at which point a jury — which won't be finding fault — will make recommendations aimed at preventing similar deaths.

Seventeen people were travelling in a 15-person van to a Chilliwack greenhouse on March 7, 2007, when the vehicle collided with two trucks and flipped onto a concrete median on Highway 1 near the Sumas exit.

Sarabjit Kaur Sidhu, 31, Amarjit Kaur Bal, 52, and Sukhwinder Kaur Punia, 46 died.

WorkSafe B.C. found — among other things — there were only two working seatbelts in the van and passengers were sitting on wooden benches. The driver, Harwinderpal Kaur Gill, pleaded guilty to driving without reasonable consideration and without a valid licence.

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News in brief

PUBLIC ART A new public artwork that wraps two sides of the Fairmont Pacific Rim's façade was unveiled at Burrard and Cordova streets yesterday. The latest addition to the City of Vancouver's Public Art collection was created by Liam Gillick and consists of a running line of repeated text in the artist's signature choice of Helvetica bold, occupying floors five through 22.

TASER The independent body in charge of keeping watch over the RCMP will release its report this week into the death of Robert Dziekanski, assessing the conduct of the four officers who repeatedly stunned him with a Taser at Vancouver's airport.

LURING A 57-year-old Kelowna man faces 33 charges in connection with luring teenaged girls over the Internet. Colin Maddocks is accused of offering to buy the girls — between 13 and 16 — alcohol, drugs and cigarettes in return for sexual favours.

HOUSING Evicted tenants told by their Vancouver landlord they were being kicked out because family members were supposedly moving in are holding a press conference today after seeing the house advertised online as an Olympic rental. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Four arrested after pair of teens killed at Winnipeg house party
A man and three males under the age of 18 have been charged with murder after someone walked into a house party in Winnipeg and opened fire, killing two young men. Tyler (T.J.) Hawula and Matthew Lawrence Victor Reynolds, both 18, were gunned down at Hawula's home early Saturday morning. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

Officials try to stop carp invasion

They can weigh 40 kilograms, eat nearly half their weight each day in plankton, and have been known to bludgeon unsuspecting anglers as they leap from the water. And if their advance through U.S. waterways isn't halted, two species of Asian carp could become the next big threat to the already unstable Great Lakes ecosystem and its multimillion-dollar fishery.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tuktoyaktuk slowly melting away

Climate change impacting life in N.W.T. hamlet

Go Green

There will be no one to tell the world about the warped and wavy roads or the gulley and ditches in Tuktoyaktuk's graveyard when the world gathers at the Copenhagen climate change summit this week, and that makes Mervin Gruben's temperature rise.

No one to point out that the once permanently frozen ground is thawing and a hunting spot that has existed for thousands of years is being swallowed up by the Arctic Ocean.

"When I was growing up, we were getting 40-below weather for January, February and March. We'd have mountains of snow," said Gruben, Tuktoyaktuk's mayor. "Now we don't have nothing at all. We barely get to 40-below, and I just turned 47. I've seen this all change in the last 30 years."

Tuktoyaktuk, a Northwest Territories hamlet of just 1,000 people, is building a road that will one day stretch 140 kilometres south to Inuvik.

"Eventually we'll slowly start moving our infrastructure farther south," Gruben said. "As we speak, there's a no-build zone on the north shore of our community. That's going to be washing away eventually."

Each year, 1.8 metres of the shoreline is lost to rising water and waves as the once-impenetrable permafrost thaws and gives way in the warmer summers. A local school and police station have already been moved farther inland.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Prentice

- Environment Minister Jim Prentice says Canada's targets to reduce greenhouse gases aren't up for negotiation when countries meet today in the Danish capital.

Montreal 'Never Again!'

RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

A young girl holds up a white ribbon reading "Never Again!" during a memorial yesterday for the victims of the École Polytechnique shooting in Montreal, on the 20th anniversary of the tragedy that left 14 women dead.

News in brief

MILITARY In the five months they have to establish a security zone around the insurgent snake pit known as Kandahar city, Canadian troops will be working to turn local allegiances in an effort to marginalize the Taliban. Changes to Canada's area of operation have resulted in a significant re-organization of how and where the country's soldiers are being deployed.

RCMP The meter is still running on the RCMP's four-year-old probe into the alleged leak of an income-trust taxation measure, with costs about to hit a half million dollars.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Remembrance 92 years after blast

ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

About 80 people braved a storm to attend yesterday's Halifax Explosion memorial service. On Dec. 6, 1917, two supply ships, one carrying munitions, collided in the Halifax harbour, creating a blast and fire that killed roughly 2,000 and injured 9,000.

Harper pays tribute to H.K. war heroes

Stephen Harper's Asian tour moved yesterday from mainland China to Hong Kong, where the prime minister participated in an annual commemorative service at the Sai Wan War Cemetery, honouring the Canadian soldiers who defended the territory during the Second World War.

"Today, we acknowledge our eternal debt to those who have served our country," Harper said.

A vastly outnumbered contingent of Canadians, along with troops from Hong Kong, the United Kingdom and India, defended the territory against Japanese invaders for 17 days, finally surrendering on Christmas Day, 1941. Canadian troops endured heavy losses during the campaign.

Today, the prime minister is scheduled to visit the demilitarized zone between the two Koreas and lay a wreath at the Seoul National Cemetery to honour Canadians killed during the Korean War. He will also deliver a speech to the South Korean national assembly.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Report cites abuse of mentally disabled

MISTREATED In one case, a mentally disabled resident at a Nova Scotia residential centre was described as being dragged by her leg down a hallway. In another, a worker is reported to have sprayed water on a female resident's head "to the point where she was gasping for air."

The descriptions of mistreatment are contained in reports stemming from 49 cases of abuse at Nova Scotia residences between October 2007 and July 2009. The reports were obtained by The Canadian Press under a freedom of information request.

The Nova Scotia government says that since the reports of abuse were filed, staff in question have been fired or disciplined, additional training is in place, and an auditor in the Department of Community Services is reviewing each case that's received.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

HOME FREE Amanda Lindhout, an Albertan journalist who was kidnapped by gunmen and held hostage for 15 months in Somalia, is expected to return to Canada this week with her family. She was freed Nov. 25.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Survivor returning to Pearl Harbor for first time since attack

Eighty-six-year-old Pearl Harbor survivor Ed Johann is due to return to Pearl Harbor today for the first time since the Second World War to attend a ceremony marking the 68th anniversary of the Japanese attack. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Iran cuts Internet access on eve of protests

Government opponents shouted "Allahu Akbar" and "Death to the Dictator" from Tehran's rooftops in the pouring rain on the eve of student demonstrations planned for today. Authorities choked off Internet access and warned journalists working for foreign media to stay in their offices for the next three days.

Opposition leader Mir Hossein Mousavi threw his support behind the student demonstrations and declared that his movement was is still alive.

A statement posted on his website said the clerical establishment cannot silence students and was losing legitimacy in the Iranian people's minds.

"A great nation would not stay silent when some confiscates its vote," said Mousavi, who claims President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad stole the June election victory from him by fraud.

Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei accused the opposition yesterday of exposing divisions in the country and creating opportunities for Iran's enemies. Iran's universities have been strongholds of the opposition movement that grew out of the disputed election, and authorities have besieged campuses nationwide with a wave of arrests and expulsions.

The pro-government Basij militia has also recruited on campuses to blow the whistle on any opposition troublemakers, according to students. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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SCANLIFE

The ransom-fuelled luxury lifestyles of Somali pirates are creating havoc for the country's economy while infuriating its religious leaders. Scan this barcode for the full article.

Greece **Anniversary of riot brings more violence**

PETROS GIANNAKOURIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A protestor throws stones at riot police during clashes in Athens yesterday. Protesters hurled rocks and burning garbage at police as violence erupted during a march to mark the first anniversary of the police shooting of a teenager, whose death sparked massive riots.

Obama challenged to act on climate change

DENMARK By executive action, the Obama administration can boost the U.S. target for reducing greenhouse gas emissions beyond levels envisioned in legislation working its way through Congress, the head of the UN climate science network said yesterday.

"There is scope for going above what is going to be legislated," Rajendra Pachauri, chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, said on the eve of the UN climate conference in Copenhagen.

Go Green

U.S. Senate and House bills capping carbon dioxide emissions would reduce them by 17 to 20 per cent by 2020, compared with 2005 levels. Compared with 1990 levels, the standard UN benchmark, that's only a three to four per cent reduction, experts calculate, a contribution far short of what scientists say is needed. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

RUSSIA Four people were ordered to remain in jail yesterday pending an investigation into a nightclub fire that killed at least 112 people in Russia's worst blaze in decades, investigators said. About 130 remained hospitalized, many in critical condition, with injuries from the early Saturday fire.

AUSTRALIA Two stars of the reality TV show I'm a Celebrity ... Get Me Out of Here have been charged with animal cruelty after allegedly killing and cooking a rat to eat during filming. The show strands C-list celebrities in the Australian jungle and allows the public to vote them off. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Hong Kong accepts Canadian beef exports

Canadian beef exporters have regained access to the Hong Kong market following a meeting between Prime Minister Stephen Harper and the former British colony's chief executive. In a news release, Harper said that regaining access to Hong Kong sends a strong signal to all Asian markets. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business

DOLLAR	GAS	OIL	TSX
US 94.53¢ (Friday's close)	US $4.58 (Friday's close)	US $75.47 (Friday's close)	11,510.80 (Friday's close)

EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Love the phone, hate the plan

CELLPHONES About 22-million Canadians use mobile devices such as cellphones and smartphones to communicate every day.

But industry experts say most of us are so distracted by those bright and shiny devices, we put very little thought into selecting the right monthly plan.

Peter Pham, CEO of U.S. website BillShrink.com, estimates that about 80 per cent of us overpay on our cellphone bill, as we tend to opt for features, and continue paying for them, even when we don't use them much.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Business in brief

JOBS Statistics Canada said 79,100 new jobs were created last month across the country. The remarkable growth dropped the national unemployment rate down a notch to 8.5 per cent, the federal agency reports. The number of new jobs were part of a surge in private sector hiring across the county.

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Metro launches new iPhone app

Metro Canada is celebrating the launch of Canada's first fully bilingual news application for the iPhone and iPod touch.

The application is unique because it's the only one in the App Store that allows users to choose between an English or French interface and also receive news content in either language.

"Metro is quickly establishing itself as a leader in the mobile space and we're the only daily newspaper publishing in both official languages, so it makes sense that we would be the ones to reach this milestone first," said Jodi Brown, marketing and interactive director for Metro Canada.

The application "Metro Canada/Journal Métro" is free. METRO NEWS SERVICES

m.metronews.ca
SCANLIFE

Chinese wind power companies are making aggressive moves to cash in on green movement in Western markets. Scan this barcode for the full article.

Unveiling Space travel

VIRGIN GALACTIC

An illustration of SpaceShipTwo is pictured. To be unveiled today in California, the ship will carry passengers on a trip into sub-orbital space. Fourteen Canadians have booked the two-hour space flight with Virgin Galactic, one of the many companies belonging to tycoon Richard Branson.

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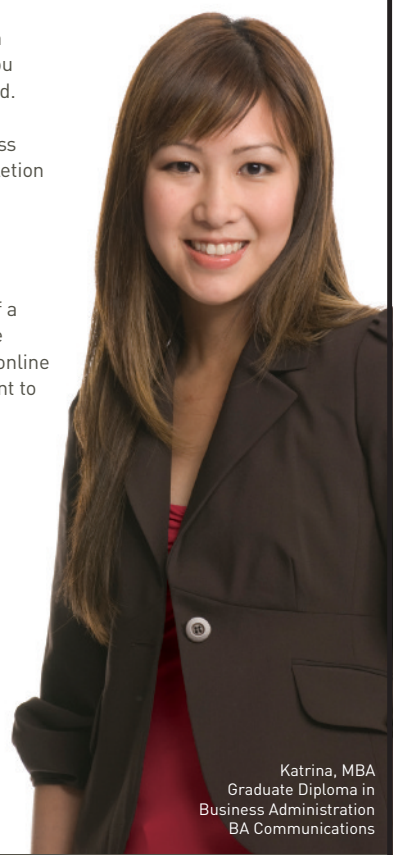
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2009 HOLIDAY PROGRAM GUIDE

CBC

December

Sunday, Nov. 29	**8 pm**	Elf
Wednesday, 2	**9 pm**	Stars On Ice 2009: On The Edge
Friday, 4	**7 pm ET**	CBC's Hockey Night in Canada: Canadiens 100th Anniversary Game: Boston at Montreal
Saturday, 5	**6:30 pm ET**	Scotiabank Hockey Tonight
	7 pm ET	HNIC: Toronto at Boston
	10 pm ET	HNIC: Calgary at San Jose
Sunday, 6	**5 pm**	Disney's Eloise at Christmastime
	8 pm	Happy Feet
Monday, 7	**8 pm**	The Santa Clause
Tuesday, 8	**8 pm**	Santa Claus Is Comin' To Town
Wednesday, 9	**8 pm**	Dragons' Den Holiday Special
	9 pm	Greg Frewin Magic Man: Home For The Holidays
Thursday, 10	**8 pm**	Deck the Halls with Steven & Chris
Friday, 11	**8 pm**	The Santa Clause 2
Saturday, 12	**6:30 pm ET**	Scotiabank Hockey Tonight
	7 pm ET	HNIC: Washington at Toronto
	10 pm ET	HNIC: Minnesota at Vancouver
Sunday, 13	**5 pm**	Disney's Santa Clause 3: The Escape Clause
	7 pm	Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer
	8 pm	The Polar Express
Monday, 14	**8 pm**	Dr. Seuss: How the Grinch Stole Christmas
	8:30 pm	Frosty the Snowman
	9 pm	Merry Christmas, Mr. Bean
	9:30 pm	Stuart McLean's Vinyl Café Christmas Pageant
Tuesday, 15	**8 pm**	Disney's Mickey's Christmas Carol
	8:30 pm	Frosty Returns
	9 pm	The Legend of Frosty
Wednesday, 16	**8 pm**	Christmas Dreams, Starring Cynthia Dale
	9 pm	Holiday Festival on Ice 2009
Thursday, 17	**8 pm**	Miracle on 34th Street (1994)
Friday, 18	**8 pm**	Home Alone
Saturday, 19	**6:30 pm ET**	Scotiabank Hockey Tonight
	7 pm ET	HNIC: Boston at Toronto
	10 pm ET	HNIC: Washington at Edmonton

Schedule subject to change. Check local listings.

Sunday, 20	**5 pm**	Disney's I'll Be Home For Christmas
	7 pm	Winnie the Pooh & Christmas, Too
	7:30 pm	Dr. Seuss: How the Grinch Stole Christmas
	8 pm	National Lampoon's: Christmas Vacation
Monday, 21	**8 pm**	Best of Just For Laughs
	8 pm	The Hour Holiday Special
Tuesday, 22	**8 pm**	A Christmas Story
Wednesday, 23	**8 pm**	Scrooge
Thursday, 24	**8 pm**	Miracle on 34th Street (1947)
	11 pm	The Hour Holiday Special

Christmas Day

Friday, 25	**10 am**	Wonderful World of Disney Parade featuring Steven & Chris
	12 noon	Queen's Message
	12:08 pm	The Forgotten Toys
	12:30 pm	The Little Drummer Boy
	1 pm	Frosty Returns
	1:30 pm	Robbie the Reindeer
	2 pm	Booky and The Secret Santa
	4 pm	White Christmas
	8 pm	The Secret of the Nutcracker
	9:30 pm	Merry Christmas, Mr. Bean

Saturday, 26	**6:30 pm ET**	Scotiabank Hockey Tonight
	7 pm ET	HNIC: Montreal at Toronto
	10 pm ET	HNIC: Edmonton at Vancouver
Sunday, 27	**5 pm**	The Incredibles
	7 pm	Harry Potter and The Goblet of Fire
Monday, 28	**8 pm**	Cirque du Soleil: Kooza
Tuesday, 29	**8 pm**	Anne Murray: Friends & Legends
	9 pm	Holiday Festival on Ice 2009
Wednesday, 30	**8 pm**	Bridget Jones's Diary

New Year's Eve

Thursday, 31	**7 pm**	Best of Just For Laughs
	8 pm	Air Farce New Year's Eve
	9 pm	The Ron James Show: New Year's Eve Edition
	10 pm	The National
	11 pm	The Hour Holiday Special and New Year's Eve Countdown
	12 am	Air Farce New Year's Eve (Repeated)
Friday, Jan. 1	**7 am**	Kids' CBC New Year's Day Jamboree
	12:30 pm ET	HNIC: NHL Winter Classic Pre-game
	1 pm ET	HNIC: NHL Winter Classic: Philadelphia at Boston

THE HOUR
NEW YEAR'S EVE SPECIAL - 11:05 pm

Count down to 2010 with The Hour's take on the year that was. Plus, you won't want to miss a candid interview with former U.S. Vice President Al Gore.

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Thursday, December 31

CBC

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Comment

Road tolling a necessary evil for cash-strapped transit

TransLink, in case you haven't heard, is facing what can best be described as a cash crunch. Metro Vancouver's regional transportation authority needs more money to expand capacity and maintain the road and transit network that's already in place.

The problem is, taxpayers aren't eager to fork out more of their hard-earned loonies to pay for infrastructure that is considered decent at best and inadequate at the worst.

So, if much-needed upgrades, such as SkyTrain expansion to UBC and the new Evergreen Line, are going to happen, TransLink is going to have to be more creative in how it raises cash, while getting more folks out of their cars.

To the agency's credit, it is already moving in that direction. One of the options being proposed is road tolling. The user-pay approach could, for example, charge drivers for crossing major bridges.

Granted, tolling is politically contentious — and is often despised by drivers.

But tolling is being touted as a solution for congestion in major cities in North America, and is already embraced in countries around the world.

Simply accepting the status quo is no longer viable, given the growing environmental and economic cost of congestion, and Metro Vancouver's growing population.

Derek Moscato is a writer with a focus on urban issues, transportation, architecture and economics; dmoscato@yahoo.com.

Views

Key to a happy holiday? Start early

Today in our series on Prepping for the Holidays: Planning Ahead.

Everyone knows the key to a successful event is planning ahead. When it comes to the holidays, I am a believer in making careful, early plans. I don't actually do it, but I'm a great believer in it. Usually, my holiday shopping plans go like this:

August: Plan ahead. Make list. Buy lovely thoughtful gifts for two sisters and hide away. Feel smug. Ignore gift list for the rest of month.

September: Cannot find list. Make new one. Nephews want Turbo-Ranger dolls at $44.95 each. Decide to wait till they go on sale. Buy lovely thoughtful gifts for my two sisters. Remember I already got them something. Damn. Could possibly give it to newspaper delivery man. Wonder if he likes "cinnamon mist" body spray. Need to regroup. Abandon shopping efforts.

November: Really serious now. March into store and buy lovely, thoughtful gifts for my two sisters. Damn. Wonder if free sample that came with makeup purchase can be given to best friend without her knowing. Break down and decide to purchase Turbo-Rangers. Stores are sold out. Company spent so much on advertising they could only afford to make six. Believe clerk who says, "We're getting more next week." Buy Christmas cards. Delighted to have finally accomplished something.

Mid-December: Hate everyone on list. Would pay almost anything for Turbo-Ranger doll

Late December: Will buy anything for anyone. See everything as potential gift. "Hmmm … masking tape. Maybe my mother would like masking tape." Have completely forgotten where I hid gifts bought in August. Pour myself large rum and eggnog, sans eggnog, and try to forget.

Christmas Day: Everyone loves everything. Such joy to give gifts to people I love. And next year, I'll start much earlier.

Anne Hines is an author and humour writer. She has written three novels and one collection of nonfiction humour.

MICHAEL DE ADDER

Tell us your views by email to vancouverletters@metronews.ca or comment on metronews.ca or on Twitter @vancouvermetro

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Alabama to play Texas

No. 1 Alabama will play No. 2 Texas in the BCS national U.S. college football championship game, a second-straight Southeastern Conference versus Big 12 matchup to decide the title. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports

Wotherspoon retiring

Jeremy Wotherspoon, left, is planning to step away from speedskating once the current season ends. The long-track star from Red Deer, Alta., widely considered the greatest sprinter of all time, made the revelation yesterday, several hours after making more progress in his comeback from the broken left arm he suffered last year. THE CANADIAN PRESS

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

SCOREBOARD

NHL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Detroit 3 N.Y. Rangers 1
Ottawa 4 Anaheim 3 (SO)

SATURDAY'S RESULTS

Carolina 5 VANCOUVER 3
Calgary 2 San Jose 1
Edmonton 3 Dallas 2 (SO)
Boston 7 Toronto 2
Phoenix 3 Ottawa 2
Atlanta 2 Florida 1 (SO)
Chicago 2 Pittsburgh 1 (OT)
Colorado 3 Columbus 2
Minnesota 5 Nashville 3
New Jersey 4 Detroit 3 (SO)
N.Y. Rangers 2 Buffalo 1
St. Louis 5 Los Angeles 4 (SO)
Tampa Bay 4 N.Y. Islanders 0
Washington 8 Philadelphia 2

TODAY'S GAMES

Atlanta at Toronto
Philadelphia at Montreal
New Jersey at Buffalo
Carolina at Pittsburgh
Washington at Tampa Bay
Edmonton at Florida
Colorado at St. Louis
Minnesota at Phoenix
Calgary at Los Angeles

NBA

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

New York 106 New Jersey 97
Cleveland 101 Milwaukee 86
Detroit 97 Washington 94
Miami 115 Sacramento 102
Phoenix at L.A. Lakers

SATURDAY'S RESULTS

Toronto 110 Chicago 78
Atlanta 80 Dallas 75
Charlotte 106 Philadelphia 105
Denver 106 San Antonio 99
L.A. Clippers 88 Indiana 72
Minnesota 108 Utah 101
Orlando 126 Golden State 118
Phoenix 115 Sacramento 107
Portland 90 Houston 89

TODAY'S GAMES

Denver at Philadelphia
Portland at New York
Golden State at Oklahoma City
San Antonio at Utah

NFL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Chicago 17 St. Louis 9
Oakland 27 Pittsburgh 24
Denver 44 Kansas City 13
Philadelphia 34 Atlanta 7
Cincinnati 23 Detroit 13
Miami 22 New England 21
New Orleans 33 Washington 30 (OT)
Indianapolis 27 Tennessee 17
Carolina 16 Tampa Bay 6
Jacksonville 23 Houston 18
San Diego 30 Cleveland 23
N.Y. Giants 31 Dallas 24
Seattle 20 San Francisco 17
Arizona 30 Minnesota 17

TODAY'S GAME

Baltimore at Green Bay

SOCCER

WORLD CUP GROUPS

Groups drawn Friday for the 2010 World Cup:

GROUP A
France, Mexico, South Africa, Uruguay
GROUP B
Argentina, Greece, Nigeria, South Korea
GROUP C
Algeria, England, Slovenia, United States
GROUP D
Australia, Germany, Ghana, Serbia
GROUP E
Cameroon, Denmark, Japan, Netherlands
GROUP F
Italy, New Zealand, Paraguay, Slovakia
GROUP G
Brazil, Ivory Coast, North Korea, Portugal
GROUP H
Chile, Honduras, Spain, Switzerland

Warner outduels Favre in return

NFL

Vikings 17 Cardinals 30

Two old quarterbacks with golden resumés and ageless arms took the field last night. Kurt Warner was marvellous, Brett Favre was miserable.

Warner, back after missing a game with a concussion, threw for 285 yards and three touchdowns and Arizona's defence stifled Favre and the Minnesota Vikings in a stunningly one-sided 30-17 victory for the Cardinals.

Favre set an NFL record for consecutive appearances, but game No. 283 in a row was no night to remember for him or the rest of the Vikings (10-2).

The 40-year-old quarterback, with just three interceptions in the first 11 games, was picked off twice and sacked three times.

Even more startling, Arizona (8-4) held Adrian Peterson to a season-low 19 yards in 13 carries and outrushed Minnesota 113-62.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PAUL CONNORS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Arizona Cardinals safety Antrel Rolle (21) runs as Minnesota Vikings defensive end Jared Allen (69) and teammates give chase during last night's game in Glendale, Ariz.

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Sports in brief

SPEEDSKATING Canada's women's team raced to a world record en route to gold in the team pursuit yesterday to continue a strong showing for the Canadians at a long-track speedskating World Cup event. Christine Nesbitt, from London, Ont., teamed up with Kristina Groves of Ottawa and Brittany Schussler of Winnipeg, to race to a time of two minutes 55.79 to lower the previous world pursuit mark of 2:56.04.

BASKETBALL Disgraced former NBA referee Tim Donaghy says he refused to make calls to affect games even if it meant he lost money and it angered the mob. "I just told them that I wasn't making calls in games to influence the outcome," Donaghy said in an interview on 60 Minutes that aired last night on CBS.

SOCCER Tottenham striker Jermain Defoe missed a stoppage time penalty as his side threw away a two-goal lead to draw 2-2 with a struggling Everton side in the Premier League yesterday.

NHL The NHL has suspended Flyers forward Dan Carcillo four games for his role in a fight that earned him 19 penalty minutes and a game misconduct.

CURLING Top seed Jennifer Jones and number 2-ranked Shannon Kleibrink were both losers on the first day of the Canadian Olympic curling trials. Jones of Winnipeg fell behind eighth-seeded Amber Holland of Kronau, Sask., early and never recovered, losing 8-5 yesterday.

CURLING Edmonton's Kevin Martin won his first game at the Canadian Olympic curling trials but he had his hands full against his 25-year-old opponent. Jason Gunnlaugson of Winnipeg jumped out to a 3-1 lead with a steal of two points in the third end before the reigning Brier champion finally regained the lead in the seventh end.

TENNIS Spain lifted the Davis Cup for the second-straight year yesterday after completing a 5-0 victory over the Czech Republic in the final.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Furyk wins Woods' tournament

GOLF Jim Furyk ended more than two years without a victory yesterday when he holed key putts on the final two holes for a five-under 67 and a one-shot victory in the Chevron World Challenge.

It was a fitting conclusion to a week dominated by talk of host Tiger Woods: A guy wearing red shirts and dark pants came through with the clutch putts with the tournament on the line.

Woods, the tournament host, wasn't around to present the trophy to one of his favourite players on the PGA Tour. He withdrew because of injuries from his Nov. 27 car crash, although he was part of every conversation because of the worldwide publicity over allegations of extramarital affairs.

"Tough times," Furyk said. "So they need the support of their friends right now, and I know that people are thinking about them."

Over the final few hours, attention shifted to a golf tournament in which six players had a share of the lead at some point yesterday.

Furyk finished at 13-under 275 for a one-shot victory over Graeme McDowell, who replaced Woods in the 18-man field. McDowell needed to hole out from the fairway to force a playoff.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Weir 14th

- Mike Weir of Bright's Grove, Ont., fired a 72 to settle for a tie in 14th.

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Going Green

Need answers?
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EDITOR: BEN.RYCROFT@METRONEWS.CA

Cork oak forests face a number of environmental threats.

Cork oak forests coming under increasing threat

CELIA PEDROSO
Metro World News

CORK Plastic stoppers and screw caps in wine bottles are affecting cork oak forests, a jewel of biodiversity.

Each time a cork oak tree is harvested — every nine years — the bark regenerates and in doing so absorbs CO_2, three to five times more than non-harvested trees.

"Cork oak forests rank among the top biodiversity hotspots in the Mediterranean and in Europe," said Nora Berrahmouni, coordinator of WWF's Cork Oak Land-scapes program.

"We must save the cork oak landscapes, a jewel of biodiversity not found elsewhere — full of treasures for people, yet ignored by many."

Cork oak forests face a number of threats mainly the increasing use of cheaper plastic stoppers and screw caps for wine bottles, cork's main market.

This started in the 1990's in countries like Australia and United States due to the TCA problem (a rare chemical reaction that may spoil the wine) related to cork.

Canada missing the target

Analysis shows U.S. green plan goes much further than Harper's

A U.S. plan to cut emissions goes much further than Canada's commitment despite government claims that the two countries now have matching targets, according to analysis by climate change experts and foreign government.

President Barack Obama will announce his plan to cut emissions to 17 per cent below 2005 levels by 2020 at the climate change summit in Copenhagen. The U.S. figure is derived strictly from cuts that can be achieved by capping greenhouse gases and trading emissions permits.

The American commitment is similar to the Canadian government's plan to go 20 per cent below 2006 levels by 2020, a point Prime Minister Stephen Harper has used to fend off attacks from such critics as the Secretary General of the United Nations, Ban Ki Moon, who urged Harper to adopt a more ambitious target.

Expert analysis shows the U.S. plan will go much further in cutting emissions when additional measures are factored in like tougher fuel efficiency rules for cars, renewable electricity standards and investments in "green" development in poor countries, known in climate change parlance as clean development mechanism projects.

All in, American emissions could go down between 28 and 34 per cent below 2005 levels in the next decade, according to a recent report by the Washington-based World Resources Institute.

Canada's target covers all national emissions cuts including fuel efficiency standards, investments in fighting deforestation and other greenhouse gas reduction schemes, said John Drexhage, climate change director at the International Institute for Sustainable Development in Ottawa.

"The U.S. is only comfortable ascribing to anything internationally that can be 100 per cent regulated, and that would only be the industries that are within a cap-and-trade system.

That's why many argue that the Canadian target is quite a bit more moderate than the U.S. target," he said.

Canada trails most developed countries in acting on climate change, and criticism from foreign governments, not just environmental activists — is becoming more pointed.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

CHRISTIAN ASSUNDGETTY IMAGES
Greenpeace portrays Prime Minister Stephen Harper on a billboard in Copenhagen.

"The Canadian target is quite a bit more moderate than the U.S. target."
John Drexhage, International Institute for Sustainable Development

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Lakehead shutdown to go ahead despite faculty criticism

Lakehead University in Ontario will move ahead with its proposed four-day shutdown the week before Christmas, despite strong opposition from the institution's faculty association, who say the plan violates members' collective bargaining agreement. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Workology

Fraud charges in Quebec

According to the Ottawa Citizen, Quebec Provincial Police have charged 25 individuals with fraud over $5,000 and using false documents in an alleged $2-million to $3-million student loan fraud at Night Hawk College, a private computer training school based in Gatineau. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

This guy is shucking amazing

OddJobs

Diane Peters

Metronews.ca/oddjobs

One of Canada's best oyster shuckers didn't think much of the job when he started.

"At first it was a really crappy job. You're stabbing yourself and it's very tedious," says John Bil, now 41.

He was in his early 20s when he got hired at Rodney's Oyster Bar in Toronto. He needed the money: He had plans to become a professional mountain biker.

That didn't happen, but he did improve his shucking skills. Three years later, in 1992, he went to Prince Edward Island for the summer, working at Rodney's new island location.

He did that for three summer and then, in 1995, he moved there permanently. It was partly for love of the island, and partly to learn everything he could about oysters.

He got a job at Carr's Lobster Pound in Stanley Bridge, selling lobster and oysters. Meanwhile, he got himself a portable oyster bar and asked bar owners around the island if he could set up on busy pub nights.

Why would you put oysters on a menu? they asked. People in P.E.I. ate oysters all the time, but at home. "It's like selling a ham sandwich," explains Bil.

But some agreed and Bil eventually had a small but steady business on the side.

Then he took a new job running Atlantic Shellfish's oyster plant. Over the next decade, he really got to learn about the cultivation and harvest of the shellfish.

As part of his job, he travelled to restaurants across the country, training kitchen and wait staff about shucking and serving oysters. That made him miss the restaurant industry, so he went back.

He did some consulting in Montreal and New York City, and helped open an oyster bar in Charlottetown. Now, he's part owner of Ship to Shore in Darnley and The Black Horse, a brand new restaurant in Kensington, both in P.E.I.

Bil used to shuck a few hundred thousand oysters a year; Now he's down to about 50,000.

He starts by opening up the oyster's two shells by inserting a knife at the hinge, wiggling it, and giving it a twist. ("That's the part where you're gritting your teeth if you're new at it.") Once it's open, he runs his knife along the top shell, cutting away the muscle that held the shells together. Then, he looks for sand and ensures the oyster is opaque and fresh looking. If it's too transparent, Bil tosses it away.

And does he eat oysters himself? At least two dozen a week.

The Lowdown

Job title: Oyster shucker
Salary: Up to $50,000 at a busy city bar
Education/training: Learn on the job
Best Part of the Job: "I love that you're literally taking something off the Earth and putting it on a plate, there's no transformation at all."
Worst Part of the Job: "Oysters are heavy when you have to move a bunch around."

Diane Peters once hawked magic pens at the Canadian National Exhibition. She's now a writer and part-time journalism instructor.

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John Bil used to shuck a few hundred thousand oysters a year, but lately he's down to about 50,000.

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Workology in brief

OTTAWA CUTS FIRST NATIONS DENTAL SCHOOL BUDGET: According to the Regina Leader-Post, the federal government is cutting the $2-million budget of the National School of Dental Therapy, a Prince Albert-based First Nations dental school, arguing it does not fit with its mandate. The school, overseen by the First Nations University of Canada, supplies Aboriginal dental hygienists to dozens of reserves and northern communities across Canada. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Residence plan for Georgian College Orillia campus moves ahead
A plan to build a student residence at Georgian College's Orillia campus is one step closer to reality as Orillia city council has authorized a pre-servicing agreement with the project's builder, according to the Orillia Packet & Times. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Looking ahead to 2010

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

When in school, don't take on too many responsibilities (work and courses), or everything will suffer.

If you're feeling overwhelmed by the end of the Fall semester, you don't have to tackle the new one alone.

Whether you haven't done as well academically as you'd wanted or the demands of your school, work and personal life are starting to tear you at the seams emotionally, the coming of the New Year can sometimes be a source of fear rather than excitement.

The first important thing is to remember that no matter how swamped, frustrated or anxious you feel, there is always something you can do to make your situation better. The second is that you don't have to go it alone — help is often just a trip to your campus counselling centre or your professor's office away.

David Mensink is a psychologist who counsels students at Dalhousie University in Halifax and says the top three reasons students come to him for counselling are, in order, anxiety, depression and relational difficulties. Unfortunately there is no quick fix for any of those things so rather than trying to forget about your problems, Mensink says it's crucial to confront them in a rational way.

"Learn from what's happened previously instead of just thinking, 'Tomorrow is a new day.' Understand what happened and let's figure out what you can do now that's going to be different," Mensink said.

Most importantly, you have to commit to a plan of action that will help you move forward.

"People do not get themselves out of trouble by thinking themselves out, they have to engage in action," Mensink said.

When it comes to stress and pressures that comes from many different sources, the key is to prioritize, then divide and conquer.

"The first thing to do is to look at all the things that are creating demand in your life and see if you can reconfigure them. Usually you can change the environment instead of changing yourself," Mensink said.

Dropping that extra course or cutting your overzealous number of work shifts can have a profound effect on your emotional well-being, as well as your grades.

Meghan Houghton, associate vice-provost of Student Services at the University of Calgary, says she sees too many students come through her office who have stretched themselves beyond their own limits in trying to juggle too many courses and too many work shifts.

"I'm actually awestruck by how many hours students try to cram into a work-study schedule. It's important for students to evaluate what they want to accomplish over all — if you're gunning for grad school, the likelihood you're going to be able to maintain anything more than part-time work and keep up your grades is very low," Houghton said.

> **"I'm actually awestruck by how many hours students try to cram into a work-study schedule."**
> University of Calgary's Meghan Houghton

Never lose sight of your overall goals, Houghton says, because having clear goals will make it easier pick yourself up and utilize your desire to do well as a motivating factor.

"It's very easy to stay positive if you feel very committed to your goals. Having that panic moment isn't necessarily a bad thing if it propels you to action," Houghton said.

Workology in **brief**

GLOBE AND MAIL RATES MEDICAL SCHOOLS: Last week, the Globe and Mail featured a special section on Canadian medical schools. An increasing number of students are opting pursue to careers as general practitioners, due in large part to measures implemented by medical schools in recent years.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Backed by the Bacons

Kevin Bacon and his brother are helping out a century-old Philadelphia tradition. The Bacon Brothers performed at a fundraising concert Saturday to raise money for the Mummers Parade, which is a colourful event held every New Year's Day. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Entertainment

Photo warning

Queen Elizabeth has warned newspapers not to run unauthorized paparazzi photos of the Royal Family. A lawyer for the Queen wrote to newspaper editors telling them not to publish the intrusive photos. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Box office

Ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theatres, according to studio estimates:

1. **The Blind Side:** $20.4 million US
2. **The Twilight Saga: New Moon:** $15.7 million
3. **Brothers:** $9.7 million
4. **A Christmas Carol:** $7.5 million
5. **Old Dog:** $6.9 million
6. **Armored:** $6.6 million
7. **2012:** $6.6 million
8. **Ninja Assassin:** $5 million
9. **Planet 51:** $4.3 million
10. **Everybody's Fine:** $4 million

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The next generation

Secret Life of the American Teenager returns tonight

IAN JOHNSTON
for Metro Canada

The Secret Life of the American Teenager sounds like another sleazy bit of reality television focusing on underage sex and bad high school-ish behaviour.

Far from it. The series — which begins its second season tonight on MuchMusic — is in fact a family drama about … well … family.

Plus underage sex and pregnancy.

"I think our fans can really identify with the characters," says Shailene Woodley, who plays the pregnant teen Amy on the series, which is best described as a slightly soapier, more fun variation on Degrassi.

"I like Gossip Girl. But it's more about expensive clothes and rich people. It's a fairy tale. I think the best fan mail we get comes from parents who say the show has opened up a lot of avenues to talk to their teenagers."

Forget Gossip Girl. The Secret Life of the American Teenager has crushed that teen TV rival in the ratings south-of-the-border since its 2008 debuted. Even before its second season premiere in Canada, the show has already filmed a third season.

Still, for Woodley, success has yet to change her life.

A veteran of movies and TV at the age of 18, she says she rarely gets recognized as her character Amy.

Not so for Daren Kagasoff, who plays womanizer Ricky, the father of Amy's child on the series. Kagasoff had never acted on TV before this show.

GETTY IMAGES FILE

Shailene Woodley stars in the family drama The Secret Life of the American Teenager.

The second season of the Secret Life of the American Teenager premieres tonight on MuchMusic.

And in less than two years, he's a teen heartthrob, albeit a bad boy heartthrob.

"It's the hair," he says, gesturing to his high-flying 'do. "The audience we get is from 10 years old to 23, so if you're at a mall, that ain't a good idea. But I never take it for granted."

As for the new season, there will be a marriage ceremony, the inevitable birth, and plenty of surprises.

"Lots of tears," laughs Woodley.

"It's a real growing period for the characters."

For Kagasoff, the second season will see his character make the transition from ladies man to father.

"I think the best fan mail we get comes from parents who say the show has opened up a lot of avenues to talk to their teenagers."
Shailene Woodley

"In the first season, he just kind of hooked up with girls and didn't take responsibility for his actions. But once the baby comes along, he's going to be the best dad he can."

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Brokaw is uninjured after three-car pile up

Former NBC News anchor Tom Brokaw and his wife escaped injury in a car accident in New York City that killed one woman Friday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Old TV variety show made for new audience

The variety show was once a television staple, and Carrie Underwood thinks it might be time for a resurgence.

The country music star hosts Monday's An All-Star Holiday Special on Fox, and believes it's just the tonic for the regular TV lineup.

"I think it's really great they're making a comeback because I think it's really good family programming, and nowadays it seems like every show is about, like, murder or police and people shooting at each other," says Underwood.

The 26-year-old Oklahoma native was too young to catch the golden age of the variety show. It once was as common as the reality show with stars like Barbara Mandrell and the Mandrell sisters, Sonny and Cher, and even The Muppets mixing music and comedy to draw in a family audience.

But Underwood did her research before shooting her show in Los Angeles earlier this fall.

"I remember a little bit of the Mandrell sisters and I have gone back and seen episodes of their show just to kind of, I don't know, get some ideas and kind of see how it's done from a master's perspective."

CHRIS PIZZELLO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Carrie Underwood hosts Monday's An All-Star Holiday Special on Fox, and believes it's just the tonic for the regular TV lineup.

She also had variety show veteran and country music star Dolly Parton on the set to give advice.

Underwood said she'd never met Parton until they did the show together and the two hit it off right away, especially when they realized they lived close to each other.

"I told her and she was like, 'You don't live far from me, let's get together. Do you like Southern cooking? You don't look like you eat.'"

Brad Paisley, fellow American Idol winner David Cook, Idol host Ryan Seacrest and Neil Patrick Harris also appear in the special, along with Underwood's mother and sister.

The show caps quite the year for Underwood. She won the Academy of Country Music entertainer of the year award in the spring, and her new album, Play On, debuted at No. 1.

She also hosted the Country Music Association Awards for the second straight year.

After a quiet holiday with family, she'll turn her attention to touring in the new year, hitting the road next spring.

"I think my whole life next year will be revolving around touring."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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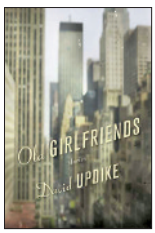
BookPicks



Old Girlfriends

Author: David Updike
Publisher: St. Martin's Press
Price: $31.99 (Hardcover)

In Old Girlfriends, David Updike (son of late American novelist John Updike) relays 10 short stories driven by male protagonists on love, loss and relationship flaws. While the title story deals with one man's struggle to move beyond an old flame and understand women, few stories actually deal with the title topic. In Kinds of Love, a man is torn between his wife and child, and churchgoing lover. Last of the Caribs follows a middle-aged man's affair with a Dane while working in the Caribbean and his concurrent, authentic desire for a Caribbean woman out of reach because of his race.

BRIAN COULTON/ FOR METRO CANADA

VA	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 12/7/09	251	308	3 CBC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	The Santa Clause ★★★ (1994, Comedy) Tim Allen. (CC)				CBC News: The National (N)		(:05) The Hour
	254	-	9 OMNI	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Omni News: Mandarin Edition		News: Cantonese Edition		Omni News: Punjabi Edition		The Simpsons
	250	321	9 CTV	etalk (CC)	Hollywood	Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: Special Victims		CSI: Miami "Count Me Out"		News
	-	-	10 JOY	Frasier (CC)	The Insider	Daily Weekend Edition (CC)		Poltergeist: The Legacy		P3	Ek Noor	New Day
	252	336	11 GTV	Entertainment	ET Canada	How the Grinch Stole Christmas ★★ (2000) Jim Carrey. (CC)				House "It's a Wonderful Lie"		News
	256	389	12 VI	Degrassi: TNG	TMZ (N) (CC)	Gossip Girl "The Debarted"		Two/Half Men	Big Bang	Castle "The Fifth Bullet" (N)		A News (N)
	253	359	13 CITY	The Office	The Office	How I Met	Accidentally	Trauma (CC)		The Jay Leno Show (N) (CC)		The CityNews
	-	-	14 CW	The Office	The Office	One Tree Hill (N) (CC)		Gossip Girl "The Debarted"		Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier (CC)
	289	381	15 CBS	Entertainment	The Insider	How I Met	Accidentally	Two/Half Men	Big Bang	CSI: Miami "Count Me Out"		KIRO 7 News
	287	379	16 NBC	Evening Mag.	Inside Edition	Clearing the Air: A KING 5		Law & Order: Special Victims		The Jay Leno Show (N) (CC)		KING 5 News
	602	568	19 W	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	Stolen Miracle (2001, Drama) Leslie Hope, Hugh Thompson.				Holiday Wishes (2006, Drama) Amber Benson.		
	288	380	21 ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Santa Is Coming to Town		Find My Family (N) (CC)		Castle "The Fifth Bullet" (N)		KOMO 4 News
	-	-	26 KVOS	M*A*S*H	Seinfeld	Pearl Harbor: Dawn of Death The 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor. (CC)						Cheers (CC)
	291	383	27 PBS	Magic Moments: The Best of 50's Pop (CC)				UltraMind Solution: Defeat Depression, Overcome Anxiety				Doo Wop 50
	290	382	28 FOX	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Carrie Underwood: An All-Star Holiday Special (N) (CC)				Q13 FOX News at Ten (N)		Family Guy
	-	364	43 PBS	(6:30) Walking With Dinosaurs		Dr. Wayne Dyer: Excuses Begone! (CC)						Change Your
	296	654	34 SBK	The Office	Name Is Earl	Frasier (CC)	'70s Show	South Park	Half & Half	Paid Program	Hatchett	Paid Program
	298	653	35 TLA	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	One Tree Hill (N) (CC)		Gossip Girl "The Debarted"		KTLA Prime News (N) (CC)		Friends (CC)
	295	651	36 WGN	WGN News at Nine (N) (CC)		Family Guy	Two/Half Men	According-Jim	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	Maury (CC)	
	297	652	37 WPX	PIX News at Ten Tong. (N)		Two/Half Men	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	According-Jim	Family Guy	South Park	Scrubs (CC)
	199	311	76 STR	News	NTV Latenight News		Late Show W/Letterman		Late Late Show/Ferguson		Inside Edition	Seinfeld
news	502	390	23 NW	The End of the Line (2009)		CBC News: The National (N)		CBC News: The National (N)		The End of the Line (2009)		National
	500	500	33 CNN	Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)				Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)		Cooper 360
sports	407	419	22 RSP	Salt Lake	UFC: Access	Hockey	PartyPoker.net		MMA Conn	Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Sportsnet
	400	400	30 TSN	NFL Football: Ravens at Packers			SportsCentre (Live) (CC)		Motoring 2010	Timbersports	Fort Strong	SportsCentre
	411	457	49 OLN	Ghost Hunters International		Dog the Bounty Hunter (CC)		Survivorman (CC)		Ghost Hunters International		Bounty Hunter
	410	403	54 SCR	WWE Monday Night RAW		Score Now	Score Now	WWE Monday Night RAW With Michael Cole and Jerry Lawler.				Cabby Unlimit
	417	406	55 SC	Barrett-Jackson		Car Crazy	Pass Time	SuperCars	Auto	Barrett-Jackson		Auctions
	416	409	144 GLF	(6:00) Fútbol Brasileño		Off the Pitch	Gol TV News	Off the Pitch	Game Cap	Paid Program	Gol TV News	Gol TV News
family	552	543	25 YTV	The Santa Claus Brothers		Jack Frost ★★ (1998) Michael Keaton, Kelly Preston. (CC)				Family Biz	Prank Patrol	Adrenaline
	555	545	50 TEL	Scooby-Doo	Total Drama	Total Drama	6TEEN	Futurama	King of Hill	American Dad	Futurama	Chicken
	557	541	51 FAM	Sonny Chance	Zack & Cody	Overruled!	Han. Montana	Wizards-Place	Latest Buzz	Ned's School	Cory in House	That's-Raven
	553	546	53 TRE	Babar (CC)	Big & Small	Max & Ruby	Dragon Snail.	Backyard	Ni Hao	Go, Diego, Go!	Franklin	Comfy Couch
cable variety	268	354	5 KNO	Recreat. Eden	Landscape	Monarchy (CC)		The World's a Stage		How the Kids Took Over		Battlefield
	575	583	20 CMT	Home Imp.	Home Imp.	Due South "North" (CC)		Reba (CC)	Reba (CC)	According-Jim	According-Jim	Home Imp.
	570	580	24 MM	Video on Trial	Video on Trial	MuchTop11at11 (N)		America's Best Dance Crew		Punk'd (CC)	Punk'd (CC)	MuchVibe
	600	564	29 H&G	House	House	Holmes on Homes (CC)		House Poor	Income Prop.	For Rent	My First Place	House
	615	520	31 A&E	Hoarders "Judi and Gail" (N)		Steven Seagal	Steven Seagal	(:01) Intervention "Danielle"		(:01) Intervention "Greg"		(:01) Hoarders
	628	584	32 SPKE	I Bet You Will	I Bet You Will	Cradle 2 the Grave ★★ (2003, Action) Jet Li, DMX.				Disorderly Conduct: Video		Disorderly
	521	560	34 TLC	BBQ Pitmasters (CC)		Little People	Little People	Cake Boss	Cake Boss	BBQ Pitmasters (CC)		Little People
	616	522	40 SHO	The Outer Limits "Paradise"		Alice (2009) (Part 2 of 2) Caterina Scorsone, Kathy Bates. (CC)				Bones "The Pain in the Heart"		NCIS (CC)
	620	523	40 BVO	Christmas at the Concert Hall		Law & Order "Black Tie"		Without a Trace "Article 32"		Brand Upon the Brain (2006) David Armo. (CC)		
	601	562	41 SLC	Plastic-Perfect	Plastic-Perfect	ET Canada	Whatever	Work Out (CC)		Brat Camp (Part 2 of 2) (CC)		Trading Sp
	520	505	42 DIS	Canada's Worst Driver (N)		Daily Planet (CC)		MythBusters "MacGyver."		Canada's Worst Driver		Dirty Jobs
	522	506	44 HIS	Pearl Harbor: Who Fired First		Patton 360 "Blood & Guts"		Battles BC (CC)		First Apocalypse (CC)		
	627	528	45 SPC	(6:00) Snakehead Terror ★★		Listener	Stargate SG-1 "Demons"		Star Trek: Next Gener.		Star Trek: Voyager (CC)	
	294	650	47 TBS	Family Guy	Family Guy	Lopez Tonight (N)		Name Is Earl	Name Is Earl	Sex and-City	Sex and-City	Lopez Tonight
	619	525	48 TROP	Raymond	Raymond	The Outer Limits (CC)		ET Canada	Comeback	Family Guy	Raymond	Raymond
	603	561	52 FN	At the Table	At the Table	Restaurant Makeover (CC)		Unwrapped	Unwrapped	Top Chef: Las Vegas (CC)		Food
	-	-	53 AMC	(:15) Jack ★ (1996, Fantasy) Robin Williams, Diane Lane. Premiere.					(:45) Never Been Kissed ★★ (1999) Drew Barrymore.			
	626	547	57 COM	Air Farce	22 Minutes	Corner Gas	Name Is Earl	The Simpsons	South Park	Dennis Leary Merry F...'in		Daily Show
	320	621	60 CEN	(6:30) Just Business (2008)		Dexter "Wish You Were Here"		Californication	Lock 'n Load	Tropic Thunder ★★★ (2008) Ben Stiller. (CC)		
	581	566	101 MTV	Peak Season	After	MTV Live	Sex News	Real World-Road Rules		Peak Season	After	MTV Live
	261	394	102 V	(6:00) Toys ★★ (1992) Robin Williams. (CC)		Mormon Taber		Toys ★★ (1992, Comedy-Drama) Robin Williams, Michael Gambon. (CC)				
	-	-	105 MUL	Sewing Maid	Boys Over Flo	State Secret		To Be Announced		Pinoy: That's Entertainment		Patrol World

critics'corner

Carrie Underwood: An All-Star Holiday Special

The Grammy-winning and multiplatinum country singer performs holiday songs in addition to selections from her albums, including her new release, "Play On." Among the performers joining Underwood onstage during the two-hour special are Dolly Parton, Brad Paisley, Tony and Emmy winner Kristin Chenoweth, and "American Idol" winner David Cook. 8 PM on FOX

Alice

Lewis Carroll's "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" and "Through the Looking Glass" get a futuristic makeover as martial arts instructor Alice Hamilton (Caterina Scorsone) finds herself thrust into a grim parallel universe, where she searches for her lost love (Philip Winchester) while trying to evade the fiendish Queen of Hearts (Oscar winner Kathy Bates). Andrew Lee Potts, Tim Curry, Matt Frewer and Colm Meaney also star. 8 PM on SHO

Crawford blasts surgery

Cindy Crawford says cosmetic surgery is unsexy. The 43-year-old supermodel says her husband Rande Gerber and close friend George Clooney can't understand why anyone would go under the knife to alter their appearance. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Celebrity Buzz

Winehouses to re-marry?

SECOND TIME'S A CHARM Despite rushing through divorce proceedings five months ago, Amy Winehouse and Blake Fielder-Civil are set to re-marry, at least according to his mother.

"Their love is so powerful nothing will stop them from being together, whatever anyone else thinks. They've battled their demons and are absolutely off drugs," Georgette Fielder-Civil tells the Sunday Mirror. "As soon as Blake finishes his term in rehab he'll be straight back with Amy in London. They'll lock the doors and won't answer the phones. But I know it won't be long before I get a call from Blake saying, 'Mum, I'm at the airport and we're flying off to get married.'"

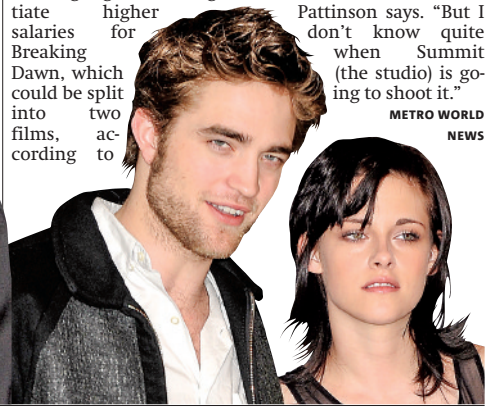
METRO WORLD NEWS

Twilight cast negotiates

VAMPIRE POWER TRIO With just one book left in the Twilight series to adapt into a film (the third book, Eclipse, has already been shot) Robert Pattinson, Kristen Stewart and Taylor Lautner are reportedly banding together to negotiate higher salaries for Breaking Dawn, which could be split into two films, according to Hollyscoop.

The power trio is said to be demanding eight-figure salaries for the conclusion to the blockbuster franchise, though the schedule for Breaking Dawn hasn't been set. "I have committed to the fourth one," Pattinson says. "But I don't know quite when Summit (the studio) is going to shoot it."

METRO WORLD NEWS



Celebrity tweets

Today, Kirstie Alley has fun with foreign weight measurements, Eddie Izzard is offering weather and shopping updates for Londoners and rapper The Game watches Oprah and isn't ashamed of it.

• @KirstieAlley So I need to loose..OH MY GOD..I could build a WALL with all these STONES!!!

• @eddieizzard Walking through Hyde Park at the moment. Sun is shining but wrap up as it's a little windy. There's an Xmas fun fair in the Park as well.

• @ihategame this ain't Gangsta AT ALL but I was watchin Oprah last night & came to the conclusion that can't nobody sing like Jennifer Hudson !

METRO WORLD NEWS

Brinkley, Joel daughter is hospitalized

OVERDOSE WITH UNDERTONES The daughter of Billy Joel and Christie Brinkley has been hospitalized after overdosing on sleeping pills, according to the New York Post.

Police sources believe Alexa Ray Joel's overdose was a suicide attempt, the newspaper reports. The 23-year-old had reportedly been complaining on her MySpace page recently about a breakup.

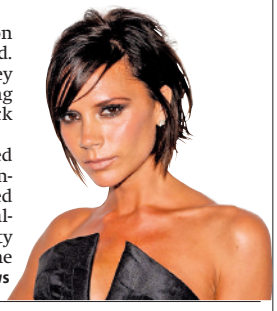
METRO WORLD NEWS

Beckham reeling after theft

BEST-LAID PLANS? Victoria Beckham is said to be reeling after the theft of more than $500,000 worth of clothing from her new collection was stolen off a delivery truck at knifepoint in London, according to the Daily Mail.

The driver was left shaken and bruised after being knocked down by two men who struck during a delivery stop. "This operation was meticulously planned. The thieves must feel they can make a fortune selling the collection on the black market," a source says.

"Victoria was informed straight away about the incident and was shocked and deeply saddened, although her first priority was the well-being of the driver." METRO WORLD NEWS



New power duo emerges

FAMOUS PARENTS A new Hollywood power couple appears to be emerging, as 16-year-old Patrick Schwarzenegger, son of California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, has reportedly started dating 15-year-old Tallulah Willis, daughter of Bruce Willis and Demi Moore, according to Page Six. "They started dating around Halloween," a source says, though her dad's rep denies it.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Cyrus is spotted with a tattoo

SHOWING OFF? Miley Cyrus is turning heads after being spotted relaxing at a Miami Beach resort in a bikini, clearly showing off a tattoo under her left breast, according to the Daily Mail. The 17-year-old's first piece of body art is a simple script reading, "Just breathe."

METRO WORLD NEWS

Gaga's fear of sex

PHOBIA REFLECTED IN LYRICS Lady Gaga once had a fear of sex, according to popeater.com.

The 23-year-old singer — who is currently single — said the songs on her new album The Fame Monster were written at a time when she was experiencing a phobia of intimacy.

She said: "I'm just really happy being single at the moment, working on my music and travelling. I think there is a time for that but it's just not now for me. And anyway, I have no confidence when it comes to men.

"Each song represents a different monster I have encountered on my travels; a fear of sex, a fear of alcohol, a fear of love, a fear of death, it goes on..."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Lively lampoons Elin on SNL

COMEDY IMITATES REALITY Rihanna was the guest musician on the latest episode of Saturday Night Live, and while her hilarious appearance in a digital short with Andy Samberg was a highlight of the week, it was another sketch that gave most pause.

Host Blake Lively played Elin Nordegren in a segment lampooning the model's marriage to scandalized golfer Tiger Woods.

The skit focused on allegations that Elin beat her husband with a golf club after learning of his infidelity.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Tuesday Sunny -2° / -5°
Wednesday Mainly sunny -2°/ -4°

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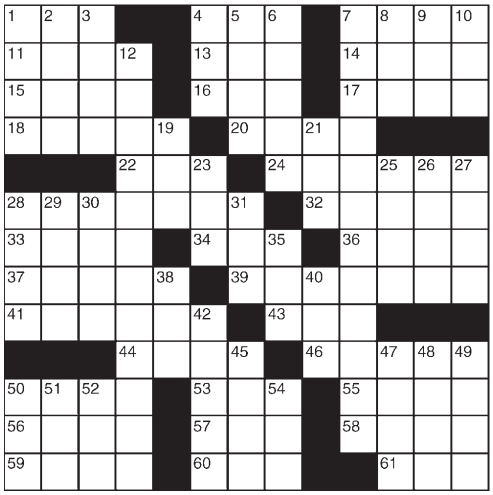
Take Five



Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

1			5					
8		2		1	4			7
	9	4	6					
						6	2	
3		9				4		8
	6	1						
					5	2	8	
5			3	9		1		6
					7			4

ACROSS

1 Airborne Dracula
4 Group of scenes
7 Antitoxins
11 Styptic agent
13 Comment from Bossy
14 Eastern bigwig
15 Actress Spelling
16 Pea holder
17 Rubik's puzzle
18 Carrot-top's secret?
20 Unaccompanied
22 Work with
24 Addled by age
28 Black leopard
32 Calculating snake?
33 Reed instrument
34 Japanese pond carp
36 Family
37 Richly luxurious
39 Annoys
41Guard
43 Gun lobby grp.
44 Jacob's twin
46 Spouse's relative
50 Old Italian money
53 Bookkeeper (Abbr.)
55Mrs. Dithers, in the comics
56 Out of control
57 Leap
58 Badder than bad
59 Makes up one's mind
60 Explosive stick
61 Antlered animal

DOWN

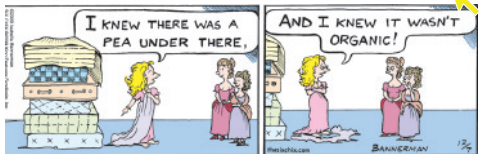
1Shower alternative
2 Lotion additive
3 Veer
4 Rock band's need
5 Talks like a dove
6 Commotions
7Opportunity to make amends, maybe
8 Ostrich's cousin
9 Cage part
10 Exist
12 Quick-fry beef products
19 Blond shade
21 Meadow
23 "A mouse!"
25 Not working
26 Mad king of literature
27 Sea eagles
28 Boston orchestra
29 Skilled
30 Verb's partner
31 Steal from
35 Charged bit
38 Day fractions (Abbr.)
40 Numerical prefix
42 America's Cup vessel
45 "Once — a time"
47 Cupid's field
48 Seed covering
49 Stroll
50 "The 7 Faces of Dr. —"
51 Devil's disciple
52 Deteriorate
54 Suitable

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

9	3	8	5	1	4	6	2	7
4	7	5	6	8	2	3	1	9
6	2	1	3	9	7	4	8	5
3	5	6	2	4	9	1	7	8
7	4	9	1	6	8	5	3	2
8	1	2	7	3	5	9	4	6
1	6	7	8	5	3	2	9	4
5	8	4	9	2	1	7	6	3
2	9	3	4	7	6	8	5	1

On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca



Metro Recipe of the Day

Cowboy Casserole

INGREDIENTS:

1 1/3 lb (600 g) unpeeled baking potatoes, scrubbed and thinly sliced
1 1/2 tbsp (20 mL) olive oil
1 tsp (5 mL) tomato paste
14 oz (398 mL) can baked beans
1/4 lb (125 g) frozen peas
1/4 lb (125 g) frozen green beans
7 oz (200 g) can corn, drained
2 tbsp (25 mL) barbecue sauce
3 1/2 oz (100 g) smoked cheese, roughly chopped

METHOD:

1. Preheat oven to 400°F (200°C). Put potatoes into pot of boiling water. Bring back to boil; half-cover and simmer until just tender, but not breaking up. Drain thoroughly, reserving 4 tbsp (60 mL) cooking water. Tip potatoes into bowl, add oil and toss to coat. Set aside.

2. Blend tomato paste with reserved hot water in pot. Tip in baked beans, peas, green beans, corn and barbecue sauce. Heat gently, stirring, until mixture is barely warm and peas and green beans have thawed. Tip into shallow casserole dish, spreading into even layer. Scatter over cubes of smoked cheese.

3. Arrange potato slices over top, overlapping slightly to completely cover bean and cheese mixture. Bake 30 minutes or until potatoes are tender and top is golden brown.

SERVES 4

Per Serving:
404 calories, 13 g total fat, 7 g saturated fat, 58 g carbohydrate, 17 g protein

rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Mercury aspects power planet Pluto in the career area of your chart today, so there is a real chance you will lose your temper.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
You will either be a hero or a villain today – there is no in between. Being the blunt spoken sort you are sure to say something that causes a fuss.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
You may believe that all things are possible but others will need some convincing. Usually you would not care in the slightest.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Don't react badly if someone questions or makes fun of your convictions today. Everyone is entitled to their own point of view .

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
Resist the urge to give up on something that, no matter how hard you try, refuses to work the way you want it to work.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Someone you work with, maybe someone important, is intimidated by your overly aggressive manner, and that could cause problems.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
You may have made up your mind about something but can you be sure you are right? Today's cosmic influences urge you to think carefully.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
Someone whose personality is almost as strong as your own will refuse to do what you ask of them today.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
Why waste time on people who, to be blunt about it, are not worth the effort? Forget them and move on.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
You are the boss and what you say goes, and anyone foolish enough to disagree with you will learn very quickly what a painful mistake that can be.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
If a petty argument is getting you down just make your excuses and leave. Why get involved in disputes that mean nothing to you?

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
What you have to deal with today may be the kind of thing you would prefer to avoid but you have no choice in the matter.

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This day in history

1941: The Imperial Japanese Navy attacks the U.S. Pacific Fleet and its defending Army Air Forces and Marine air forces at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Because of the time difference due to the International Date Line, the events of Dec. 8 occurred while the date was still Dec. 7 to the east of this line.
1988: Spitak Earthquake: In Armenia an earthquake measuring 6.9 on the Richter scale kills nearly 25,000, injures 15,000 and leaves 400,000 homeless.
1988: Yasser Arafat recognizes the right of Israel to exist.
2003: The Conservative Party of Canada is officially recognized after the merger of the Canadian Alliance and Progressive Conservative Party of Canada.

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Twittelator Pro
$4.99 • Do you tweet? Use Twittelator Pro to send updates on the go, and bring them to life with photos and videos captured right on your iPhone.

The Sims 3
$6.99 • The ever-popular computer game arrives on the iPhone. Customize your Sims, explore stunning 3-D worlds and experience everything "real" life has to offer.

Tom Tom U.S. & Canada
$99.99 • Turn your iPhone into a fully featured Sat Nav with Tom Tom's expert voice-guided turn-by-turn directions, automatic re-routing, and more. It even links with your contacts list to give you directions to any address.

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Wine Ph.D.
$4.99 • Go from wine novice to enthusiast in seconds. Just use your iPhone to search the Wine Ph.D. database by name, producer, varietal, region, food pairings or published ratings.

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Free • Want to know who's playing tonight? Local Concerts taps your music library and a large global database to notify you of upcoming shows. Browse events by date or venue, then buy tickets right from your iPhone.

TuneWiki
Free • Listening to music on your iPhone and want to know the lyrics? TuneWiki serves up lyrics to songs from your iTunes library so you can follow along as the song is playing.

Epicurious
Free • Can't decide on dinner? Get Epicurious recipes right on your iPhone. Search by type, what's in your fridge or what's in season. Then make a shopping list with the touch of a button.

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GoodGuide
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Mover
Free • Now it's easier than ever for two iPhones to share stuff. With just the swipe of a finger, you can transfer photos, contacts and more to another iPhone over the same WiFi network.

Rocket Taxi
$1.99 • Ever notice cabs are scarce when you need one? Using your iPhone's built-in GPS feature, Rocket Taxi will find a taxi closest to you. Then all you have to do is tap to call for your ride.

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Free • When travel takes you to a new place, AroundMe can quickly find nearby businesses from the nearest bank to the closest gas station then route them for you using your iPhone's GPS.

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Bell | iPhone 3G S

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